LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15: (Canceled).

16. (New) A method for manufacturing bent hollow bodies with inner and outer arcs forming inner arc wall regions and outer arc wall regions, comprising the steps of: bending a starting hollow body; and, using at least one high internal pressure (HIP) forming process step, transforming the hollow body in an HIP tool to a final cross-sectional shape, whereby the starting hollow body exhibits a readily bent cross-section at least in a region to be bent, in which by means of specific cross-sectional shaping, wall material lies closer to a neutral stress plane with reference to bending stresses than in the final cross-sectional shape, the HIP tool having a slide element, the method including moving the slide element in the inner arc wall region of the bent starting hollow body, making contact at least with part of a surface area of the inner arc wall region, and withdrawing the slide element during the HIP process in the inner arc wall region in a direction of an opening of the bend, whereby the inner arc wall region of the bent starting hollow body is displaced in a direction of the withdrawing slide element by action of the high internal pressure.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, including controlling the withdrawal of the slide element and the high internal pressure so that wall material flows along a surface of the slide element from the inner arc wall region in a direction of an adjacent, bending distal wall zone of the hollow body.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16, including shape forming the hollow body in the outer arc wall region into the final cross-sectional shape and, subsequently, withdrawing the slide element from the inner arc wall range.

19. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein during the withdrawing the slide element the inner arc wall region of the bent starting hollow body is shape-formed at least close to the final cross-sectional shape and, by a further HIP process, the hollow body is transformed to the shape of the final hollow body in a further tool having the cross-sectional shape of the final hollow body.

20. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein at least in the inner arc wall region the bent starting hollow body has a recess which, viewed from outside, is concave in form.

21. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the bent starting hollow body is a simple hollow section, and the readily bent cross-sectional shape exhibits two recesses that are counter to each other in shape and form a necking region.

22. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the final hollow body is a simple hollow section.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the final hollow body is a tube-shaped hollow section.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tube-shaped hollow section has a circular cross-section at an end.

25. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tube-shaped hollow section has an oval cross-section at an end.

26. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the hollow body is a metal hollow body and a ratio B of an average bending radius R_m to an outer diameter D of the bent final hollow body lies in a range:

$$0.5 \leq R_m/D \leq 2.$$

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the hollow body is made of aluminum.

28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the hollow body is made of an aluminum alloy.

29. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the ratio B is in a range:

$$0.7 \leq R_m/D \leq 1.$$

30. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein a bending angle of the bent final hollow body lies in a range of 40° to 180°.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the bending angle lies in a range of 60° to 180°C.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the bending angle lies in a range of 90° to 180°.

33. (New) A device for forming bent starting hollow bodies to a final cross-sectional shape or a cross-sectional shape approaching that of a final hollow section using a high internal pressure (HIP) process, whereby a starting hollow body exhibits a readily bent cross-section at least in a region to be bent, in which by means of specific cross-sectional shaping, wall material lies closer to a neutral stress plane with reference to bending stresses than in the final cross-sectional shape, the device comprising an HIP tool configured to accommodate the bent starting hollow body, the HIP tool having a slide element situated in an inner arc wall region of the bent starting hollow body, the slide element being arranged to be movable in a direction of an opening of the bend so that the slide element is withdrawn.

34. (New) The device according to claim 33, wherein the shape-forming tool is a multi-

part tool with upper and lower halves and the slide element.

35. (New) The device according to claim 33, wherein the slide element is arranged to lie in a supportive manner at least on part of a surface of the inner arc wall region.

36. (New) The device according to claim 33, wherein the bent starting hollow body exhibits a recess at least in the inner arc wall region, the slide element having a face that faces the inner arc wall region of the starting hollow body, the face having a convex shape which is counter-identical to a shape of the recess.

37. (New) The device according to claim 33, wherein, in plan view, the slide element is tongue-shaped.